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November 15, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 138 – October 2018
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On October 15, EPA Region 2 (Region 2) and CPG held a teleconference regarding the status of updates to the Food Web Model (FWM) calibration efforts.
- On October 17, Region 2 and CPG held a teleconference to discuss baseline monitoring for the Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy (IR).
- On October 18, Region 2 and CPG held a teleconference to discuss the Upper 9-Mile IR Feasibility Study (FS).
- On October 24, Region 2, CPG and representatives from New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) held a meeting to discuss the initial Upper 9-Mile IR FS.

Correspondence

- On October 1, CPG uploaded the revised Draft 17-Mile Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment (BERA) to the EPA SharePoint site.

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- On October 1, CPG uploaded revised Sections 6, 7, 10, 11, and Executive Summary of the revised Draft 17-Mile Remedial Investigation (RI) Report to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On October 4, Region 2 provided comments on the Draft 2012 Fish Tissue Survey and Chemistry Background Data for the Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) to CPG.
- On October 4, Region 2 provided comments on the revised Draft 2011 Avian Community Survey Data Report for the LPRSA to CPG.
- On October 4, Region 2 provided comments on the revised Draft 2012 Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring Program Data Report for the LPRSA: Summer and Fall to CPG.
- On October 4, Region 2 provided comments on the revised Draft 2012 Sediment Toxicity Reference Data Report for the LPRSA to CPG.
- On October 4, CPG provided responses to Region 2 comments on Sections 6, 7, and 10 of the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report.
- On October 4, CPG provided the presentation from the September 19, 2018 teleconference call on baseline monitoring for the Upper 9-Mile IR to Region 2.
- On October 5, CPG uploaded revised Appendices H, I, and J of the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On October 10, CPG provided responses to Region 2 comments on the revised Appendices H, I and J of the Draft 17-Mile RI Report.
- On October 10, Region 2 provided correspondence directing CPG to prepare a streamlined FS for Operating Unit (OU) 4 evaluating interim remedial alternatives for the upper 9-miles.
- On October 10, CPG uploaded revised Appendices L and M of the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On October 10 and 11, CPG and Region 2 exchanged emails regarding Contaminant Fate and Transport (CFT) Model code updates.
- On October 11, CPG provided updated CFT Model files to Region 2 via delivery of a hard drive.
- On October 11, Region 2 provided comments on the Draft Organic Carbon Model Report for Newark Bay Study Area (NBSA) to CPG.
- On October 11, CPG uploaded the revised Final 2012 Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring Program Data Report for the LPRSA to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On October 11, CPG uploaded the revised Final 2012 Sediment Toxicity Data Report for the LPRSA to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On October 15, CPG delivered the September Monthly Progress Report to Region 2.
- On October 15, CPG uploaded revised Appendix G of the revised Draft 17-Mile RI report to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On October 16, CPG provided Region 2 the presentation materials from the October 15 Food Web Model (FWM) teleconference call,
- On October 15, Region 2 provided approval with minor comments to CPG on the revised Draft Fall 2009 Sediment Toxicity Data Report for the LPRSA.
- On October 16, CPG provided a proposed agenda to Region 2 for the October 18, 2018 teleconference call to discuss the Agency's October 10 correspondence directing the CPG to prepare a streamlined FS for OU 4.

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- On October 16, CPG provided presentation materials on baseline monitoring to Region 2 for the October 17, 2018 teleconference call.
- On October 16, CPG uploaded the revised 2009 Sediment Toxicity Data Report for the LPRSA.
- On October 17, Region 2 scheduled the first meeting for the IR FS on October 24, 2018.
- On October 17, CPG uploaded the revised Appendix O of the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On October 18, Region 2 provided minor comments to CPG on the revised Draft 2012 Sediment Chemistry Background Data Report for the LPRSA.
- On October 18, CPG uploaded the revised Draft 2012 Reference Benthic Invertebrate Community Data Report for LPRSA to EPA's SharePoint site.
- On October 18, CPG uploaded the revised Draft 2011 Caged Bivalve Study Data Report for the LPRSA to EPA SharePoint site.
- On October 19, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding the IR FS schedule assumptions.
- On October 22, CPG uploaded responses to Region 2 comments on the revised Appendices G, L, M, N and O for the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On October 23, CPG provided a working draft IR FS schedule and a list of underlying assumptions to Region 2.
- On October 23, CPG uploaded Appendix N of the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On October 24, CPG uploaded the Final 2010 Small Forage Tissue Data Report for the LPRSA to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On October 25, CPG uploaded the revised 2011 Winter-Spring Avian Survey Report for the LPRSA to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On October 26, CPG uploaded the revised 2012 Background Sediment Chemistry Data Report for the LPRSA to the EPA SharePoint site.

Work

- CPG continued work to address Region 2's comments on the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report and Model Appendices.
- CPG completed work to address Region 2's comments on Revision 2 of the Draft 17-Mile BERA.
- CPG continued work on calibration of the revised LPR/Newark Bay CFT Model.
- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the LPR Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG continued work on revision of Newark Bay Model documentation.
- CPG reviewed the Lower 8 Mile Bathymetry Survey Report and initiated preparation of a bathymetry QAPP addendum for the Upper 9-Miles.
- CPG prepared a draft FS schedule and work plan pursuant to Region 2's October 10, 2018 direction letter

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(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- None.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue work on the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report and Model Appendices in response to Region 2 comments. Appendix P (Bioaccumulation Modeling) has been partially revised, but additional work on calibration issues is required to complete the revision.
- CPG will continue calibration of the revised LPR/Newark Bay CFT Model and continue to work with HDR to complete the calibration.
- CPG will continue revising and calibrating the LPR Bioaccumulation Model pursuant to Region 2 comments.
- CPG will continue work on Newark Bay Model documentation.
- CPG will continue discussions with Region 2 to prepare the Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy FS.
- CPG will continue preparation of a bathymetry QAPP addendum for the Upper 9-Miles.

(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

- **Other Documents** – Region 2 and CPG are working on finalizing the outstanding documents.

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.


Willard Potter
CPG Project Coordinator

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cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel
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